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August 10, 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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AUG 11 1993

Honorable Paul Simon
United States Senate
462 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Senator Simon:

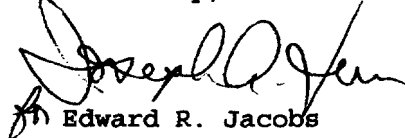
This is in reply to your letter of July 23, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Timothy F. Deutsche, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals, plus a discussion paper released March 1, 1993.

We are sensitive to the needs of users of private land mobile radio spectrum and the impact that these proposals may have on their radio systems. We will endeavour to protect all private land mobile radio systems, including those operated by public safety entities. Your constituent's letter will be included in the record of this proceeding and will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules.

Thank you for your interest in this proceeding. We expect to issue final rules in 1994.

Sincerely,



Edward R. Jacobs
Deputy Chief, Land Mobile and
Microwave Division

Enclosures

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YRB
92-235

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

July 23, 1993

3045

Lauren Belvin
Acting Director, Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Belvin:

A constituent of mine, Mr. Timothy F. Deutschle, sent me the enclosed letter regarding proposed Federal Communications Commission regulations dealing with "spectrum refarming."

I would appreciate your sharing your thoughts on this.

My best wishes.

Cordially,



Paul Simon
U.S. Senator

PS/stc
enclosure

Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts

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July 12, 1993

Senator Paul Simon
462 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Simon:

The Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts has recently learned of proposed regulations promulgated by the Federal Communications Commission which appear to have the potential for major financial impact on Illinois fire protection districts and all other public agencies within the State of Illinois. This process is referred to as "spectrum refarming" and is intended to address spectrum shortages in the area of state and local government mobile communications. The proposed regulations are contained in FCC Docket 92-235.

Specifically, as we understand the proposed regulations, there would be a reduction in the public safety bandwidth, reduced transmitter power output, and a reduction in mobile relay operations in bands currently in use. The effect of these changes will be to require major alterations in current operations and equipment of public safety agencies, including Illinois fire protection districts, at considerable expense. Most fire protection districts do not have the financial resources to fund significant changes in mobile communication equipment in the short run. At the same time, mobile communications is critical to the operation of any fire department.

The costs of complying with existing state and federal mandates relating to work safety, hazardous materials and other areas have strapped most districts to the limit. Fire protection districts, unlike some other units of local government, rely almost exclusively on real estate taxes for their support. Limitations on this revenue source make new spending extremely difficult for nearly all districts to shoulder.

We would urge you to investigate and monitor this matter. While the fire districts certainly support efforts to make mobile communications for public safety agencies more accessible and efficient, this must not be accomplished in a manner which will create a financial burden resulting in the impairment of public safety agencies' adequate and effective mobile communications.

Thank you for your attention to the foregoing.

Sincerely,

Timothy F. Deutschle
Legislative Committee